

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An assay for determining a concentration of total endogenous lactoferrin, said assay A method for monitoring a person patient having inflammatory bowel disease, comprising:

obtaining a first human fecal sample from a person;

diluting said first fecal sample;

contacting said first sample with immobilized polyclonal antibodies to endogenous lactoferrin to create a first treated sample;

contacting said first treated sample with enzyme-linked polyclonal antibodies to create a first readable sample;

determining the optical density of said first readable sample at 450nm;

generating a purified lactoferrin standard curve and determining a linear portion of the standard curve;

comparing said optical density of said first readable sample to said standard curve to determine a concentration of the first diluted sample; and determining whether the concentration of the first diluted sample is within the linear portion of the standard curve, wherein if the first diluted sample is within the linear portion of the standard curve, determining the concentration of total endogenous lactoferrin in said first fecal sample;

obtaining a second human fecal sample from the person at a time after the first sample was obtained;

diluting said second fecal sample;

contacting said second sample with immobilized polyclonal antibodies to endogenous lactoferrin to create a second treated sample;

contacting said second treated sample with enzyme-linked polyclonal antibodies to create a second readable sample;

determining the optical density of said second readable sample at 450nm;

comparing said optical density of said second readable sample to said standard curve to determine a concentration of the second diluted sample; and determining whether the concentration of the second diluted sample is within the linear portion of the standard curve, wherein if the second diluted sample is within the linear portion of the standard curve, determining the concentration of total endogenous lactoferrin in said second fecal sample;

comparing said lactoferrin concentration of the first fecal sample to the at least one previously determined lactoferrin concentration of the second sample for the person patient to monitor the inflammatory bowel disease activity of the person patient and determine whether treatment of the inflammatory bowel disease has been effective if the person has had a [[in]] decrease[[ing]] or increase in gastrointestinal inflammation or eliminating gastrointestinal inflammation.

2. (Currently Amended) The assay as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of diluting said fecal sample comprises diluting said first and second samples by serial ten-fold dilutions until a measured result indicates a concentration of fecal lactoferrin for each of the first and second samples that provides an optical density reading at 450 nm that is within a linear portion of the standard curve.

Claims 3-5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring a human patient having inflammatory bowel disease, the method comprising:

obtaining a first fecal sample from a human having the inflammatory bowel disease ~~patient~~ at a first time;

determining the concentration of endogenous lactoferrin in said first fecal sample to obtain a first lactoferrin concentration;

obtaining a second fecal sample from the human having inflammatory bowel disease ~~patient~~ at a second time after treatment of the human patient's inflammatory bowel disease later than said first time;

determining the concentration of endogenous lactoferrin in said second sample to obtain a second lactoferrin concentration; and

comparing said first lactoferrin concentration to said second lactoferrin concentration to determine whether treatment of the inflammatory bowel disease has been effective in decreasing or eliminating gastrointestinal inflammation.